

Being a Champion in the Kingdom of God

Intro:

I want to talk tonight about being a Champion in the Kingdom of God!

Champion = a person who fights for or argues for a cause or on behalf of someone else; removes obstacles and minimize barriers in practical ways

Advocate Proponent Promoter Supporter Defender Upholder

Interactive Moment: Think of someone who has been a champion in your life?

Each one of us, if we really stop and think about it, has probably had a champion or two in our life

Our big idea tonight is that one of the core values of the Kingdom of God is that it is generational! We serve a Generational God, who reigns over a Generational kingdom and His church is a generational Church. One of the primary purposes for each one of us is to be a champion for the next generation. ((NO MATTER WHAT AGE))

The most important thing that you ever do might very well be not SOMETHING you do but SOMEONE you champion!!

You can't outsource this calling...not just for pastors or student ministry workers, or KidLife volunteers or even parents...this has to do with our general calling as believers who are a part of the Kingdom of God!

Tonight I am asking God to give each one of us a champion's heart for the next generation (reminder, refocus or dropping a kingdom value in your heart for the very first time!)

One of the primary ways God introduces Himself in Scripture is "I am the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob"
Exodus 3:6

Examples: connecting generations, linking generations, handing off the baton
Moses - Joshua (Exodus) - leadership, sent him out as a warrior

Eli - Samuel (1 Samuel 3) - taught him how to hear God's voice and obediently respond, courageously share it

Samuel - David (1 Samuel 16) - anointed him from among more qualified; gave David the confidence of knowing that God was with him

Elijah - Elisha (1&2 Kings) - double anointing; Elijah's 8 miracles, Elisha's 16 miracles

Paul - Timothy (1 Tim. 1:2) - Paul met Timothy on his 2nd missionary journey and became his spiritual mentor, travelled and worked together to build the Early Church

Elizabeth - Mary (Luke 1:26-38) - angel appears to 13 year old Mary and lets her know that her life is so much more important than she ever would have imagined; she has this amazing conversation with the angel

"I am the Lord's servant," Mary answered. "May your word to me be fulfilled."

Then the angel left her. Lk 1:38

- altar call ended, worship band went home
- youth conference was over
- summer camp wrapped up
- the pivotal moment where God shows up, reveals Himself, gives His plans and directions...it always ends

Mary had to look around her own life, her own church, her own community for someone else who she can share it with in the parent generation!!

The Holy Spirit fell on both of them when they met! They BOTH needed each other!

The devil hates this! He is always working to create generational gaps. Working to create disharmony between generations. We see right here in the origin story of how Jesus entered into humanity....it was a bonding of the generations as they celebrated and prepared for the Messiah's coming!

Each one of us has a responsibility to play our part and to champion the call of God, the purposes of God in the next generation!

How can I be a champion in the Kingdom of God: 4 practical ways!

1. Pray

If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.

2 Chronicles 7:14

2. Positive

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.

Eph. 4:29

3. Prioritize church

After all, no one ever hated their own body, but they feed and care for their body, just as Christ does the church—for we are members of his body.

Ephesians 5:29-30

4. Provide opportunities

From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked.

Luke 12:48

Closing:

Are you being a champion in the Kingdom of God? Have you embraced this as a Kingdom value that each of us are called to walk in? How are you walking this out in your every day life?

My simple prayer tonight is that God will give to each one of us a champion's heart for the next generation!!

From City Life's own College & Young Professionals:

What are the top two things you need from the older generation or those beyond you in life?

- empathy, emotional availability
- shared wisdom from their life experiences
- teaching us how to love people well and how that has looked for them in different seasons of life
- inspiration to learn new things, try new things
- how to adjust when life happens and your plans don't go as expected

- mentorship, support, friendship
- curiosity, an openness to new ways of doing things
- discipleship from friendship....not necessarily a class
- Time around a dinner table/family like settings....sharing meals, advice and stories
- Someone I can trust to ask for help when needed